

CLAIMS

Sub 37 1. A method for conducting electronic transactions, the method comprising:

- (a) establishing a first communication connection to a provider from a consumer;
- (b) submitting to the provider a request for a transaction;
- (c) processing said transaction, and generating electronic certificate data;
- (d) establishing a second communication connection from said provider to said consumer's printer;
- (e) transmitting said electronic certificate data to said consumer's printer; and
- (f) controlling the printing of an electronic certificate by the provider to print the certificate on said consumer's printer.

Sub 37 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said transmitting act includes transmitting said electronic certificate data to said consumer's printer without involvement of said consumer.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said transmitting act includes transmitting said electronic certificate data to said consumer's printer without involvement of a consumer's computer.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said submitting act includes:

- (g) submitting consumer identification information for said consumer; and
- (h) submitting printer identification information for said consumer's printer.

Sub 47 5. The method of claim 1, wherein said processing includes:

- (g) confirming said consumer identification information; and
- (h) confirming said printer identification information.

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6. The method of claim 1, wherein said establishing communication connection includes:

- (g) confirming that said printer has sufficient supplies; and
- (h) replenishing said printer with supplies.

7. The method of claim 1, further including

- (g) providing an identification indicia for printing on said electronic certificate;
- (h) transmitting identification indicia data along with said image file to said consumer's printer; and
- (i) printing said identification indicia on said electronic certificate.

8. The method of claim 7, further including

- (j) confirming that said identification indicia was printed on said electronic certificate; and
- (k) maintaining print-confirmation information for said electronic certificate by said provider.

9. The method of claim 1, further including

- (j) providing printing instructions for printing said electronic certificate;
- (k) transmitting said printing instructions along with said image file to said consumer's printer; and
- (l) printing said electronic certificate using said printing instructions.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein said identification indicia is a bar

code

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11. The method of claim 1, wherein said printing includes:
(g) printing an original financial certificate.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein said printing includes:
(g) printing an original ticket.

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13. The method of claim 1, wherein said printing includes:
(g) printing an original stamp

14. The method of claim 1, wherein said printing includes:
(g) printing an original postage label and an associated pick-up schedule label.

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15. The method of claim 1, wherein said printing includes:
(g) printing an original credit card that is activated for immediate use.

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16. The method of claim 1 further including:
(g) requesting said user to make a payment for said electronic transaction; and
(h) confirming said payment

Ref B1

17. The method of claim 16, wherein said printing includes:
(i) printing an original receipt for said payment.

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18. The method of claim 1, wherein said printing includes:
(g) printing an original debit card that is activated for immediate use.

19. The method of claim 1, wherein said printing includes:
(g) printing an original pre-paid card that is activated for immediate use.

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20. A method for conducting electronic transactions, the method comprising:

- (a) requesting a transaction from a provider;
- (b) transmitting authorized document data to a consumer's printer that is under direct control of said provider in response to said transaction; and
- (c) printing said authorized document with said consumer's printer.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein said transmitting act includes:

- (d) transmitting said authorized document data to said consumer's printer without involvement of said consumer.

22. The method of claim 21, further including:

- (e) directly confirming that said consumer's printer has sufficient supplies to print said authorized document; and
- (f) automatically replenishing said consumer's printer with supplies.

23. A system for issuing and printing authentic certificates for a consumer, comprising:

- (a) a provider information processing system that receives request for an authentic certificate and generates said authentic certificate, said processing system providing printing instructions for printing said authentic certification;
- (b) a network connecting said processing system to a plurality of user's; and
- (c) a printer connected to a point on said network in communication with said provider information processing system, such that said consumer's printer receives authentic certificate data and printing instructions from said provider information processing system and prints the authentic certificate according to said printing instructions.

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Amg1 24. The system of claim 23, wherein said communication connection is via the Internet.

25. The system of claim 23, wherein said communication connection is via optical communication medium.

5 26. The system of claim 23, wherein said communication connection is via wireless communication medium.

Amg1 27. The system of claim 23, wherein said provider information processing system includes means for:

10 (c) directly confirming that said consumer's printer has sufficient supplies to print said authentic certificate; and

(d) replenishing said consumer's printer with supplies.

28. The system of claim 23, wherein said consumer's printer includes means for sending print-confirmation information to said provider.

15 29. The system of claim 23, wherein said consumer printer is capable of printing authentic certificates of different dimensions.

Amg1 30. A printing device associated with a consumer, comprising:

(a) means for receiving printing data and printing instructions from a remote provider; and

20 (b) means for printing said printing data according to said printing instructions under said remote provider's direct control without involvement of said consumer.

31. The printing device of claim 30, further including:

(c) means for acknowledging receipt of said printing data directly to said remote provider.

25 *Amg1* 32. The printing device of claim 30, further including:

(d) means for canceling a printed material; and

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(e) means for sending information about cancellation of said printed material to said remote provider.

33. The printing device of claim 30, wherein said printing data is printed on paper.

34. The printing device of claim 30, wherein said printing data is printed on plastic.

35. The printing device of claim 30, wherein said printing data is printed on CD ROM.

36. The printing device of claim 32, wherein said canceling include:

(f) defacing said printed material; and

(g) sending an image of said printed material in defaced form to said remote provider.

37. The printing device of claim 32, wherein said canceling include sending identification information read from said printed material to said remote provider.

38. The printing device of claim 30, wherein said means for printing includes means for printing original financial certificates.

39. The printing device of claim 30, wherein said printing includes printing original tickets.

40. The printing device of claim 30, wherein said printing includes printing original stamps.

41. The printing device of claim 30, wherein said printing includes printing original payment receipts.

42. A method for checking that a user's printer has sufficient printer supplies by a remote provider, said method comprising:

(a) establishing communication with said user's printer by said remote provider;

(b) receiving information about said printer supplies; and

(c) determining sufficiency of said printer supplies.

part a10

5 43. The method of claim 42, wherein said establishing communication includes establishing communication without a user's involvement.

10 44. The method of claim 42, wherein said establishing communication includes establishing communication without a user's computer involvement.

 45. The method of claim 42 further includes sending printer supplies for said user's printer.

15 *part a11* 46. A method for printing original documents at a user location, the method comprising:

 (a) establishing communication from a first processor associated with an authorizer of the printing of the original document to a user printer at the user location;

 (b) printing the original document with the user printer; and

20 (c) controlling (b) independent of a printer driver on a computer at the user location.

 47. The method of claim 46 wherein said user location is one of a plurality of user locations.

 48. The method of claim 46 wherein said authorizer is one of a plurality of authorizers.

25 *part a12* 49. The method of claim 46 wherein said communication is via the Internet.

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pat 017 50. A method for printing original documents at a user location, the method comprising:

- (a) printing an original document with a printer responsive to a printer resident driver; and
- (b) authorizing (a) with a driver resident on a processor geographically remote from the printer.

pat 017 51. The method of claim 50 wherein said printer is one of a plurality of printers.

52. The method of claim 50 wherein said processor is one of a plurality of processors.

53. The method of claim 50 wherein said authorizing is via the Internet.

pat 017 54. A method for printing original documents at a user location, the method comprising:

- (a) transmitting first data for a first original document to a printer via a computer network;
- (b) printing the first original document responsive to the first data with a printer;
- (c) transmitting second data for a second original document to the printer via the computer network, the second original document being a different type of document than the first original document; and
- (d) printing the second original document responsive to the second data with the printer.

pat 017 55. The method of claim 54, wherein said transmitting acts include transmitting said first and second electronic certificate data to said printer without involvement of said user.

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56. The method of claim 54, wherein said transmitting acts include transmitting said first and second electronic certificate data to said printer without involvement of a user's computer.

57. The method of claim 54, wherein said printing includes:
(e) printing an original financial certificate.

58. The method of claim 54, wherein said printing includes:
(e) printing an original ticket.

59. The method of claim 54, wherein said printing includes:
(e) producing an original stamp.

60. The method of claim 54, wherein said printing includes:
(e) printing an original postage label and an associated pick-up schedule label.

61. The method of claim 54, wherein said printing includes:
(e) printing an original credit card that is activated for immediate use

62. The method of claim 54 further including:
(e) requesting said user to make a payment for said electronic transaction; and
(f) confirming said payment.

63. The method of claim 62, wherein said printing includes:
(g) printing an original receipt for said payment.

64. The method of claim 54, wherein said printing includes:
(e) printing an original debit card that is activated for immediate use.

65. The method of claim 54, wherein said printing includes:
(e) printing an original pre-paid card that is activated for immediate use

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66. The method of claim 54, wherein said transmitting acts include transmitting said first and second electronic certificate data to an intermediary party.

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67. The method of claim 66, wherein said intermediary party is an intermediary printer maintenance organization.

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